



March 12, 2014

General Assembly  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: S.R. No. 9 - RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA-SEIU LOCAL 2001) and H.R. No. 5 - RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA-SEIU LOCAL 2001).**

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Sandra Perez and I have worked as a family child care provider since 2000. It is important for us to have equal benefits to all those other workers. We are licensed by the State of Connecticut and some of us keep learning about education, behavior, the development of children and other courses to stay up to date.

This profession is beautiful, and at the same time delicate, because we care for, protect, educate, and see these children grow every day. We offer service to children of different ages, maintain proper records for the State, cook for and feed these children with no help from anyone. Sometimes we do the work of more than three people to make sure these children grow up in a familiar, secure and quality environment.

I have managed to provide for my family with this work, and my own children are now professionals. But it was not easy! The pay is very low, we do not have a fixed monthly salary and we have many expenses. It is a mixed-income that varies from month to month and sometimes we struggle to pay our debts and get ahead.

Thanks to all providers and the union workers for bringing us these benefits. No we are not babysitters but people prepared to exercise high quality work with these kids and parents. Both need it so much. I ask God to help us move forward in this important work and to continue to make progress. Now is the time.